

## Parish Masses / Anniversaries / Other Events:

### St. Mary's, Carrigallen (Week commencing Sun. 07<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2025):

**Sun. 07<sup>th</sup> Dec. – 11.15am:** Mary Frances Mc Gowan-Schmitt, U.S.A. (**M. M. Mass**).  
Charles & Elizabeth Sheridan, Calloughs & D.F.M's.

**Mon. 08<sup>th</sup> Dec. – 11.15 am:** Funeral Mass for Frances Magarahan, Calloughs.

**Tues. 09<sup>th</sup> Dec. – 7.30 pm:** Pat & Claire Masterson, Corner House.

**Wed. 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. – 10.00 am:** Vincent & Lena Hoban, Main Street.

**Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. – 11.15am:** Kevin Mc Manus, Church Street (**1<sup>st</sup> Anniv. Mass**).  
Dec'd members of the Grimes family, Beaghmore.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Tues. 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm & Wed. 10.30 am to 11.30 am.

### St. Mary's, Drumeela (Week commencing Sun. 07<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2025):

**Sun. 07<sup>th</sup> Dec. – 10.00 am:** Therese Mc Gurren, Corglass & D.F.M's.

**Fri. 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. – 7.30 pm:** Missa Pro Populo.

**Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. – 10.00 am:** Seán Brady, London and Drumanure & D.F.M's.

### St. Mary's, Drumreilly (Week commencing Sat. 06<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2025):

**Sat. 06<sup>th</sup> Dec. – 8.00 pm:** "Grow in Love Mass" for First Holy Communion Class.

**Mon. 08<sup>th</sup> Dec. – 8.00 pm:** Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

**Thurs. 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.30pm:** Memorial Mass for Nan Connolly, late of Ardunsaghan  
(at the behest of Drumreilly Active Age Group).

**Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. – 8.00 pm:** John, Mary & Tommy Kiernan, Aghalough.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Tuesdays from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

CHURCH AREA	OFFERTORY COLLECTION - 29 <sup>th</sup> / 30 <sup>th</sup> NOV.
Carrigallen	€835
Drumeela	€284
Drumreilly	€312

### THOUGHT FOR ADVENT

Advent reminds us that we are on a journey and that the Lord will come to each of us personally at our journey's end.

### IN OUR PRAYERS, WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING:

**FRANCES MAGARAHAN** (*née Maxwell*), Calloughs and formerly of Aughawillan. Removal to St. Mary's Church, Carrigallen today Sunday at 6.00 pm. Funeral on **Monday (8<sup>th</sup> Dec.) at 11.15 am** followed by burial in the adjoining Cemetery.

**PAT HOLAHAN**, St. Alban's, London and formerly of Derrygoan, Drumreilly. Funeral arrangements later.

**EDWARD (EDDIE) BRADY**, Crott, Moyne (*brother of Bridie Mulligan, Carrickmakeegan*) whose funeral takes place in St. Francis Xaviers Church, Moyne on **Mon. 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. at 1.00 pm** followed by cremation at Lakelands Crematorium.

*May their souls rest in heavenly peace.*



**RECENT BAPTISM:** With joy we welcome Cillian Kieran Sheridan, Sydney who was baptised into our Community of Faith on **Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> Nov.** in St. Mary's Church, Carrigallen and we congratulate his parents, Caroline and Shane.

**MEN'S RETREAT** from **12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December** in Mullaghmore Conference Centre, Sligo. Escape for a weekend from the busyness of life and spend time getting to know yourself better as a son of God the Father. Mass, Adoration, Meditation, Rest, Healing and Confession. Book on 071-9176722 or on [www.staroftheseacentre.com](http://www.staroftheseacentre.com)

**BAMBINELLI SUNDAY:** On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, children and adults bring their Baby Jesus figures from their crib for blessing. This year we celebrate "Bambinelli Sunday" at all Masses next weekend **13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> December**. All are invited to bring their Baby Jesus figure to Mass and they will be blessed.

### NEWS FROM THE RECENT PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING:

- A Review of Recent Events & Celebrations - We thank all those who took part and helped out with the Mass of Consolation held in Saint Mary's, Drumeela.
- Have tentatively organized a programme for Bishop Martin Hayes' Pastoral Visit to the parish on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026**.
- Christmas Mass times in the Parish:  
Christmas Eve – St. Mary's, Drumreilly – 8.00 pm.  
Christmas Day – St. Mary's, Drumeela – 10.00 am.  
Christmas Day – St. Mary's, Carrigallen – 11.15 am.

**PRIMARY SCHOOLS SURVEY 2025 – HAVE YOUR SAY:** A reminder to all parents or prospective parents of primary school students to please log on to an important survey at [www.gov.ie/primaryschoolssurvey](http://www.gov.ie/primaryschoolssurvey) This will determine the future patronage of primary schools. It is important that those who wish for a change in patronage have their voice heard. It is equally important that those who wish for a Catholic education for their children would have their voice heard. The closing date for this survey is **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025**.

**AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS SONG WITH JAMES KILBANE** and the combined Church choirs of Ballyconnell & Kildallan in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Ballyconnell on **Thurs. 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. at 7.30 pm**. Tickets available from the Parish Office on 049-9526291 or from Anna on 086-7386650. Proceeds in aid of St. Brigid's Old Church.

**KILMORE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2026:** It will take place from **5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May** flying from Knock. Book with Cavan Travel, Main St. Cavan 049-4361222 and for Assisted Pilgrims with Fr. Tom Mannion, Pilgrimage Director, Ballinaglera on 087-9170879.

**LEITRIM GUARDIAN** is now on sale in the shops. Available throughout Carrigallen. Lots of local articles including two local award winners. Not to be missed!

**A PÁDRAIG GRIFFIN TALK** in Ballinamore Library on **Thurs. 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. at 7.30 pm** entitled 'Church / State relations in Ireland since 1800'. The talk will look at how the Influential Roman Catholic Church maintained relations with the State before & after the Anglo-Irish Treaty & the setting up of the independent Irish State in 1922. A free event and all welcome.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT** presented by St. Mary's N.S. Drumlea on **Wed. 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm**. Junior Room Play. Senior Room Play. Raffle. Refreshments served. All welcome.

**PARISH BINGO** in Drumreilly Community Centre on **Friday nights** and in Carrigallen Hall on **Sunday nights at 8.30 pm sharp** in both venues. Usual prizes and raffles. Please support.



**MARIE KEATING FOUNDATION - MOBILE INFORMATION UNIT** will be at Carrick on Shannon Garda Station on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm**. The Foundation aims to raise awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle and the early detection in reducing cancer risk. The Foundation offers this service to the General Public. Both men and women are welcome to avail of this confidential visit with the nurse on duty.

**CARRIGALLEN GAA HEALTHY CLUB** – Ladies Exercise Class on **Monday at 11.00 am in the Corn Mill Theatre. (Final Class of 2025)**. Social cuppa afterwards. All welcome.

**CARRIGALLEN GAA CLUB LOTTO DRAW**: Regular weekly Draw is held on Sundays in the Clubrooms. This week's Jackpot is **€3,200**. 4 lucky dip prizes of **€50** if not won. Extra prize for holders of "weekly recurring tickets". Click on "Automatically Renew Purchase" at checkout. Tickets from local vendors or <https://member.clubspot.app/c.../carrigallen-gaa/fundraisers> We also have a Monthly 50/50 Draw. See our social media pages for details.

**SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL FOR CARRIGALLEN/DRUMEELA/AUGHAVAS**: At this time of year the Saint Vincent De Paul volunteers are busy responding to calls especially now with the high cost of food & fuel. The SVP Christmas appeal for funds has now begun so that people in need of help can be visited before Christmas. You can contribute to Saint Vincent de Paul by placing your donation in one of the SVP envelopes available in any of the churches from **this weekend** & then put it into the steel box in the front porch. If your household budget won't see you through Christmas, don't suffer in silence; please call us on the number below, we are there to help. If you don't live locally & would like to help financially, please contact our confidential number 087-6024223. Thank you.

**POSITIVE AND PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR CARERS** of family members with dementia at The Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon every **Tuesday until 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. from 7.00 - 9.30 pm**. For queries e-mail: [familycarertraining@alzheimer.ie](mailto:familycarertraining@alzheimer.ie) or call 1800-341-341.

**ANAM CARA** the organisation that supports bereaved parents will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm** in the Mullingar Park Hotel.

#### **Feast Days / Memorials during the Coming Week (08<sup>th</sup> Dec. – 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.)**

**Mon.** – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Mary was conceived without original sin.

**Tue.** – St. Juan Diego. 16<sup>th</sup> Century Mexican peasant who experienced Marian apparitions.

**Wed.** – Our Lady of Loreto. Universal Patron Saint of air travellers.

**Thurs.** – St. Damasus I. Pope of Rome from 366 to 384. Presided over the Council of Rome.

**Fri.** – St. Finian of Clonard. 6<sup>th</sup> Cent. Bishop and one of the 'Fathers of Irish Monasticism'.

**Sat.** – St. Lucy (Lucia) of Italy. 4<sup>th</sup> Cent. Roman Christian Martyr. Patron Saint of the blind.

**Phone Numbers:** Fr. John Mc Mahon **433 9610 / Mob. 086-2126582**.

**Parish Cluster:** Fr. Seán Mawn, Ballinamore **071-9644039 or 087-6869040**; Fr. Malachy Moses C.C. Ballinamore **087-4904380**; Fr. Andrew Tully, Killeshandra **049-4334179 or 086-8050526**; Fr. Peter Tiernan, Cloone/Aughavas **071-9636016 or 086-3500114**.

**Parish Website:** [www.carrigallenparish.ie](http://www.carrigallenparish.ie) The Parish Newsletter is uploaded to the site each weekend & you will also find a link to the daily livestreamed Masses from Carrigallen.

**FACEBOOK:** Parish of Carrigallen, Drumeela and Drumreilly.

**Parish Newsletter:** It promotes Church & Community events. Articles must state author's name & phone number & can be written into one of the church diaries before **5.00 pm on Wed.** or emailed to [carrigallen@kilmorediocese.ie](mailto:carrigallen@kilmorediocese.ie) by **12 noon on Fri.** Editors reserve the right to omit or amend articles.

# Parish Newsletter

**St. Mary's Parish**

**Carrigallen – Drumeela – Drumreilly**

**07<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2025 – Second Sunday of Advent - Year A**

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's Gospel (Matt. 3: 1-12) introduces us to John the Baptist as a prophetic voice crying out in the wilderness - a place symbolizing both desolation and preparation. His call is simple yet radical: **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand."** The wilderness is where pretences fall away. John does not preach from the temple or among the powerful, but from the margins. Sometimes God's voice is clearest in the quiet, stripped-down places of our lives, moments when distractions fade and truth rises. John's rough clothing and simple diet mirror the authenticity of his message. He embodies what he proclaims. This challenges us to consider whether our lives reflect our faith with the same clarity and simplicity.

When the religious leaders join the crowd, John confronts them, insisting that repentance must produce visible, tangible evidence of an inner transformation. Faith is not revealed by outward signs alone but by a changed character, compassion & humility. True repentance reshapes how we speak, act, forgive and love. John's message ultimately points beyond himself. He prepares the way for Jesus, who will baptize not merely with water, but with the Holy Spirit and fire.

The image of the winnowing fan is sobering. It reminds us that God's kingdom brings both renewal and judgment. The Spirit exposes what is false, burns away what destroys life, and strengthens what is good. This is not meant to frighten the sincere heart but to free it. This Gospel invites us into a posture of readiness for the One who is coming and it challenges both our comfort and our complacency. But it does so with hope. The Kingdom is not far off. It is near. God is moving toward us with grace, inviting us to turn, to be transformed, and to bear fruit that blesses the world.

**AN ADVENT FAMILY PRAYER:** Dear God, thank you for giving us these weeks of Advent to prepare for our celebration of the birth of Jesus Your Son. We are so thankful for all the people who help us on this path that we are travelling, to welcome Jesus. Awaken within us the desire to pray and the need to love. Bless our family and prepare our home and our hearts to welcome your Son into our world. Amen.